

MAYORAL COLUMN

THREE WATERS A REGIONAL COLLABORATION

I welcomed last week's Three Waters announcement and the Government's support for regional collaboration.

Speaking from Havelock North, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a \$761 million national package for Three Waters investment over the next year, the first of several expected tranches, with \$50m earmarked for Hawke's Bay's councils.



Mayor Craig Little

Councils have also been invited to work with Government to co-design and support multi-regional Three Waters service delivery entities.

Since early in 2019 the five Hawke's Bay Councils, including Wairoa, have been working together to review the current and potential service delivery options for drinking, waste and stormwater for all of Hawke's Bay.

Investment in Three Waters infrastructure across Hawke's Bay is a significant challenge and we need to be able to meet the requirements of any future changes to regulation.

Our communities are in a very good position to consider the Government's proposal and to form a view on how Councils can collectively use this opportunity to find the best long-term solution for Three Waters service delivery, that meets the needs of all our communities.

OUR THREE WATERS SERVICES ARE CRITICAL TO THE COMMUNITIES WE SERVE, AND THEY LINK TO OUR ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OUTCOMES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO GET THIS RIGHT FOR OUR REGION.

Town people need to realise when we turn our tap on, when we flush the toilet or when it rains there is a cost and these costs are increasing significantly because of the considerable legislation changes we have seen.

We do not know what the end result is going to be, but we do know it is going to be costly.

The \$50m Government investment is for immediate infrastructure repairs and maintenance. It is too early yet to know exactly how that will look for Wairoa but as soon as we know we will be talking with the community.

We have all seen the spiralling costs around Three Waters and the cost of the ever-changing compliance is a real struggle for small districts like Wairoa.

There are still a lot of questions in this space and the goal posts are constantly moving.

For Wairoa, working collaboratively with the rest of Hawke's Bay will provide an opportunity for huge savings.

However, it is important these savings are not against the loss of local people, expertise and service delivery.

Wairoa needs to retain its local experts. Historical events have shown us how quickly Wairoa can become isolated and it is important we have the necessary expertise and resources here in Wairoa to respond to any situation.

For the Wairoa community, it is crucial that we have a part in the design of the best solution to meet the needs of our community and not have an outcome imposed on us.

RATES REVIEW

The Wairoa District Council rates review process is underway.

A key part of this process is promoting a community conversation

around the current rating model and any potential or future rating models.

WE WILL BE ESTABLISHING A STAKEHOLDER GROUP, SIMILAR TO THE WAIROA WASTEWATER GROUP, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING SOLUTIONS-BASED INPUT FROM MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Long-term sustainability must be a major feature of any future rating system and I am really looking forward to working with a stakeholder group and ensuring we can deliver the most appropriate model within the Local Government legislative requirements that we must work within.

DRIVER LICENCING

It's great to see young Wairoa people working their way through the driver licencing stages.

Since driver testing was taken away from Wairoa it has been a real challenge to teach our young people how to drive and to prepare them to be able to meet the requirements of the different levels of driver testing.

Recently I met a group of young people who were working towards gaining their learner licences and it was encouraging to see their enthusiasm.

Over time there have been a lot of different agencies helping our rangatahi to gain the appropriate driving qualification.

Currently the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust, through its He Poutama Rangatahi contract, and Youth Services, are arranging for groups of 10 young people to be instructed on their learner licence over a two-day course.

Once they have achieved that, one on one restricted and full licence lessons follow.

The learner licence lessons are arranged every time there is a group of 10 young people who meet the criteria for financial assistance.

The lessons involve an instructor from Hawke's Bay who is contracted through EIT to travel to Wairoa to deliver the courses.

THIS IS A DIRECT RESULT OF EMPLOYERS IN TOWN TELLING US A MINIMUM REQUIREMENT FOR THEM IS TO HAVE STAFF WHO HAVE THEIR FULL DRIVER LICENCE, SO IT IS GREAT TO SEE THAT CRITERIA MET.

I encourage any rangatahi who want to start the journey to gaining their full driver licence to get in touch with the Wairoa Young Achievers Trust.



WYAT Youth Services Manager and Wairoa District Councillor Denise Eaglesome-Karekare, Mayor Craig Little, Wairoa District Council chief executive Steven May and WYAT Employment Pathways coordinator Harlene Waikawa with some of the rangatahi who have been working towards gaining driver licencing qualifications.

FOR YOUR DIARY PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

COUNCIL MEETING

Tue, 28 July: 1.30pm

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tue, 4 August: 1.30pm

INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

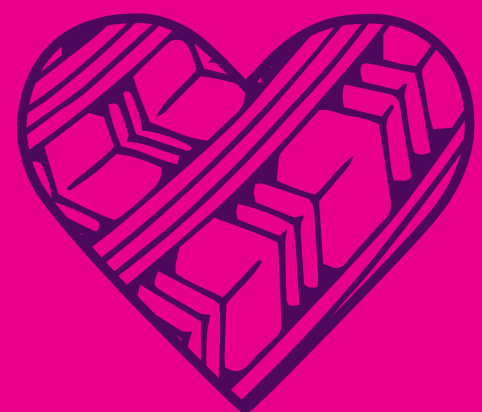
Tue, 11 August: 1.30pm



CONTACT US

Wairoa District Council
Queen St, Wairoa
info@wairoadc.govt.nz
(06) 838 7309

TAUTOKO WAIROA BUY LOCAL



Spend \$30 or more at a local shop and be in for a chance to win one of ten \$100 vouchers.

The draw will run for 10 weeks. Winners are announced each Friday.